

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 143. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea. •

TRIBUTE TO KATHY O'NAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when a tornado tore through the city of Mayfield, KY, last December, America's eyes turned to the community. Volunteers, FEMA workers, and elected officials quickly rushed to the scene to offer our help. But in the aftermath of the devastating storm, amid all the commotion, one figure stood out above all the rest, rallying her town, coordinating recovery efforts, and promising that Mayfield would bounce back, no matter how long it took to rebuild. That inspiring leader was Mayfield Mayor Kathy O'Nan, and today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor O'Nan for her leadership and for recently earning recognition as the Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year.

In the past few months, Mayor O'Nan has become a familiar figure to anyone tracking Western Kentucky's recovery from last year's tornadoes. To the residents of Mayfield, though, she has long served as a standalone advocate for their town and an exemplary community leader. Mayor O'Nan got her start in Mayfield as a high school teacher and church choir director and still knows how to command a rowdy room, whether it is full of students or national reporters. She uses those skills to wear the many hats required of a mayor in a tight-knit town like Mayfield, from community cheerleader, to event coordinator, to business developer.

When I first arrived in Mayfield after last December's storms, Mayor O'Nan came up to me immediately, rattling off all the Federal help her community needed to recover. On every subsequent visit, she has been there front and center, ready to discuss storm relief. We have worked closely to provide Western Kentucky with the resources required to rebuild. I am incredibly grateful to

have such a hard-working, knowledgeable, and capable friend on the ground.

Mayor O'Nan's leadership has been noticed by figures around the country in the past few months. But, as always, her first priority is Mayfield, so I am confident her Woman of the Year Award from the Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce means more to her than any outside recognition ever could. After all, the residents of Mayfield aren't just her constituents. They are also her neighbors, family, and friends.

Mr. President, the Mayfield Messenger highlighted Mayor O'Nan's recognition as the Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Mayfield Messenger, Apr. 23, 2022]

TO BE THE FIRST ONE TO VOLUNTEER: O'NAN NAMED AS MAYFIELD BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce held its annual Women in Business luncheon at Trace Creek Baptist Church on Thursday. The event is held yearly to celebrate the accomplishments of females in the business industry within the community.

The 2022 Kentucky Derby themed luncheon included lunch, a keynote speaker, and the announcement of the Woman of the Year award. This year's recipient is Mayor Kathy O'Nan.

"Our award this year is named after Mary Propp, a woman who has served the community for many years," said Tanya Rose, vice-president of quality assurance research and development at Mayfield Consumer Products, presenting sponsor of the event. "Mary told me that she wants the recipient to be someone to have the commitment to this community as she does, someone who is an authentic role model. To lead by setting an example. We are looking for a female today to give this award to, that distributes that characteristic. She must have significant community involvement outside of what their job requires."

Ester Hubbard was brought onto the stage, along with the mayor's daughters, Meg O'Nan-Holmes and Ellen O'Nan.

When Hubbard first came to Mayfield in the 1980s, her husband had just had back surgery and was hospitalized in Memphis. She had two young children at the time who were both in preschool.

"I thought woe is me. I'm here trying to take care of these children. Well, my friends told me about this woman in Mayfield who also had two preschool children, however, her husband has a brain tumor and he's not expected to live," said Hubbard. "I thought to myself—if she can do it, I can do it."

O'Nan quickly became Hubbard's role model, before even knowing her.

"What a great role model she has been for me, for her girls, and for all of the people she has touched," said Hubbard.

O'Nan was a former teacher at Mayfield High School, and a choir director at her church prior to being elected mayor.

"She was such a good role model, and still is," said Hubbard. "These young people that she was around—she was a social studies teacher, and part of that is citizenship. She didn't talk about it, she acted on it."

Even though O'Nan was not born in Mayfield, Hubbard states that she was, and remains a wonderful part of this community.

"She gave to the school, going to every game or activity scheduled. She gave to the church, she gave to the community," said Hubbard. "But she still had time for real emergencies, like when my Jake was in second grade and they wouldn't let him practice because he didn't have all his gear. We hopped in the car and got him some, because to K.O. (O'Nan), that was an emergency."

O'Nan is known for her heart to help others, and her want to ease pain and put hope into the universe. At 5 a.m. on Dec. 11, O'Nan told the nation about the devastation Mayfield had just gone through—but also that there's always hope.

"I woke up the morning after the tornado, texts from people asking if we were okay of course," said Hubbard. "But then the rest were saying that my mayor was awesome. I was absolutely overwhelmed with the number of calls telling me over and over that my mayor is fantastic."

Ellen O'Nan spoke out about her mother's nickname—K.O.

"It originated when I was a senior in high school. I used to be grounded a lot, and when people would ask if I could do something—friends would say 'she can't, she's grounded, K.O. says no,'" said Ellen. "I always thought it was fitting though, because, in the boxing world, K.O. means to knock out. That's how she always approached challenges, anything hard in her life. She'd just knock them out."

As Ellen O'Nan thanked her mother for teaching her lessons about knocking out, O'Nan's other daughter, Meg O'Nan-Holmes spoke about how she admired her mother throughout her life for so many things.

"For the entirety of my life, I've admired you," said Meg O'Nan-Holmes. "But the biggest thing I admire is how strong you are. When I think about strong women, I think about her."

"I'm not a businesswoman. I'm an old school teacher, and I'm very proud to be an old school teacher," said O'Nan. "It's an honor to stand in front of you today. When my daughters were three and six, my husband did pass away."

O'Nan stated through all the pain and sorrow, a friend of hers said that she had been given a gift. She would have a special relationship with both of her daughters.

"I've done some really fun things in life, received honors I probably only half deserve, but in no way ever can I ever dispute the fact that the greatest part of my life is these two girls," said O'Nan. "They are my life. And life is to be fun."

O'Nan pointed out the women at her table, who work in Mayfield's city government.

"There are ten women who work in our government—if you were my student, you should know how important women getting the right to vote is to me," said O'Nan. "I always talked about my hero, Alice Hall. These ten women who sit with me at this table would not be here in this position today if it were not for our sisters who fought before us, to get us that way. To have a right to vote, to serve—to realize our importance."

Keynote speaker Alyson Van Hooser, spoke on the true meaning of leadership. She noted that meeting a need, and seeing a need is the importance of a true leader. That leadership is not a title, however, it is a characteristic.

Attendees were given a copy of Van Hooser's book, 'Accelerate Your Success,' along with a goodie bag filled with items from this year's sponsors.

The following were sponsors of the event: Mayfield Consumer Products, FNB Bank, Re-Fabbed Boutique, Fox Wealth Management, US Bank, CFSB, WK&T, First Kentucky Bank, Regions Bank, Mayfield Water and Electric Systems, West Kentucky Rural Electric, AwardMasters, Centrifugal Technologies, CPlant Federal Credit Union, Kyle